

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 SY-04 IO-14 DRC-01 /139 W

----- 117852

R 301115Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7829

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1104

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINSN CD

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING IN CHAD

REFS: (A) NDJAMENA 1083; (B) NDJAMENA 1040(NOTAL;
(C) NDJAMENA 1064(NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE FINALLY RECEIVED FRG AMBASSADOR AND TWO BONN EMISSARIES APRIL 28 AND PROMISED FULL GOC COOPERATION IN SEARCH FOR DR. STAEWEN AND TWO FRENCH HOSTAGES. HAS PUT CHADIAN DC-3 AT THEIR DISPOSAL FOR VISIT TO BARDAI TODAY ON WHICH GERMAN JOURNALISTS MAY ALSO TRAVEL.

2. STAEWEN'S DRIVER-MECHANIC, KOCH, IS BEING HELD AT N'DJAMENA CENTRAL POLICE STATION FOR QUESTIONING CONCERNING HIS STRANGE BEHAVIOR. ACCORDING TO AMB. SELDIS, KOCH WAS IN OWN QUARTERS ON COMPOUND WHEN SHOOTING STARTED AND NOT RPT NOT, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, AT STAEWENS' DINNER. HE BARRICADED HIS HOUSE AND DID NOT EMERGE UNTIL SEVERAL HOURS LATER. HE NEVER WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE. BAD BLOOD WAS KNOWN TO EXIST BETWEEN KOCH AND STAEWENS AND CHADIAN POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING KOCH'S POSSIBLE COLLUSION WITH
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SUB-PREFECT WHO DEFECTED TO REBELS DURING ATTACK.

3. SELDIS REPORTS THAT BARDAI IS NOW GHOST TOWN. ALL TOUBOU INHABITANTS TOOK TO MOUNTAINS ON ARRIVAL OF CHADIAN PARATROOPS WHO ARE CHIEFLY SOUTHERNERS AND MUCH HATED BY TOUBOUS. ONLY FEW SENUSSI ARAB MERCHANTS (LOCALLY CALLED "LIBYANS") REMAIN.

4. SELDIS HOPES INCIDENT WILL MARK END OF STAEWEN'S MEDICAL PROJECT IN TIBESTI. INITIATED FIVE YEARS AGO, IT COSTS FRG FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS PER MONTHS TO MAINTAIN, HAS SERVED VERY FEW PEOPLE AND HAS BEEN CHIEFLY VEHICLE FOR STAEWEN'S MEDICAL RESEARCH AND LITERARY PROCLIVITIES. BUT FOR HEINEMANN FAMILY CONSIDERATIONS PROJECT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABANDONED TWO YEARS AGO, SELDIS SAYS.

5. HOURLY CALLS TO HOSTAGES AND CAPTORS ARE BEING MADE OVER RADIO NETWORK OF FRENCH MISSION POUR LA REFORME ADMINISTRATIVE (MRA) BECAUSE HOSTAGE COLME OF MRA STILL BELIEVED TO HAVE HIS RADIO-EQUIPPED LAND ROVER IN MOUNTAINS. NO CONTACT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED SINCE COLME BROADCAST REBEL "COMMUNIQUE" APRIL 23. AERIAL SEARCHES HAVE FAILED TO LOCATE LAND ROVER. MULCAHY

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